

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03550 01 OF 02 031859Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----106668 031915Z /40

O O 031839Z MAR 78 ZFF 4  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3798  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03550

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TSGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK  
SUBJECT: REUTERS STORY ON ALLEGED US-UK DIFFERENCES  
OVER RHODESIA SETTLEMENT ISSUES

1. JOHNNY GRAHAM CALLED DCM MARCH 3 TO STATE THAT  
DAVID OWEN WAS INCENSED BY A REUTERS STORY DATED  
LUSAKA REPORTING AN ALLEGED US-UK ROW OVER THE APROACH  
TO BE TAKEN TO THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. CITING  
DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, STORY STATES THAT ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY MOOSE "SOUGHT TO DISSUADE DR. OWEN FROM  
EMBARKING ON THE PLAN" TO BRING NKOMO INTO THE INTERNAL  
TALKS AND THAT MOOSE "HAD ABANDONED PLANS TO VISIT  
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SOUTHERN AFRICA" BECAUSE OF THE DISPUTE. FULL TEXT  
FOLLOWS BELOW.

2. GRAHAM SAID THE STORY APPEARED TO BE A SERIOUS  
LEAK THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BASED UPON A REPORTING CABLE.  
NOTING THAT HE HAD NOT YET SEEN REUTERS TEXT, DCM  
ASKED GRAHAM'S VIEWS ON STEOS TO DEAL WITH THE STORY.

GRAHAM SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DENY,  
BUT THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER VIEWS THAT WE  
MIGHT HAVE.

3. WE ARE REFERRING ALL PRESS QUERIES TO DEPARTMENT  
AND HAVE SO INFORMED GRAHAM.

4. WITH REGARD TO FCO PLANS FOR DEALING WITH THE ORESS  
ON THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ANNOUNCED FROM SALISBURY,  
GRAHAM SAID SPOKESMAN WOULD TAKE THE LINE IT WAS  
NECESSARY TO WAIT AND SEE ITS IMPLICATIONS, ESPECIALLY  
WHETHER AN ELECTION AND GOVERNMENT CAN BE ORGANIZED.  
MEANWHILE FCO SPOKESMAN WILL UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE  
OF THE FIFTH PRINCIPLE WHILE NOT CONDEMNING OR ENDORSING  
DEVELOPMENTS IN SALISBURY. THE ACID TEST WOULD BE  
WHETHER THE INTERESTS OF THE RHODESIAN PEOPLE WOULD  
TRULY BE MET. GRAHAM NOTED THAT THIS LINE WAS TAKEN  
BY OWEN IN HIS INTERVIEW BY ROBIN DAY ON BBC-TV ON  
MARCH 2 (SEPTEL).

BEGIN TEXT: RHODESIA--NIGHTLEAD NKOMO: BY ALAN  
COWELL

LUSAKA, MARCH 3, REUTER--BRITAIN AND THE UNITED  
STATES ARE TRYING TO RECONCILE SHARP DIFFERENCES OVER  
THEIR JOINT RHODESIA POLICY WHICH HAVE FORCED A TOP  
U.S. ENVOY TO CANCEL A NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID TODAY.  
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THE DISPUTE REVOLVES AROUND THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL  
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED IN SALISBURY TODAY AND  
OFFERING RHODESIA'S 6.5 MILLION AFRICANS A QUALIFIED  
BLACK RULE IN RETURN FOR CONTINUED WHITE INVOLVEMENT IN  
POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROCESSES.

THE ROW WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON THE  
CREDIBILITY OF ANY FUTURE WESTERN PEACE OVERTURES TO  
RHODESIA'S PATRIOTIC FRONT GUERRILLAS, WHO ARE FIGHTING  
A WIDENING BUSH WAR AGAINST WHITE RULE. THEIR LEADERS,  
MR. ROBERT MUGABE AND MR. JOSHUA NKOMO, WERE EXPECTED  
TO MEET IN MAPUTO TODAY TO CHART THEIR STRATEGY  
TOWARDS THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHITES AND  
MODERATE BLACKS, IN WHICH THEY DID NOT PARTICIPATE.

ACCORDING TO THE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THE ANGLO-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 03550

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AMERICAN ROW ERUPTED IN LONDON EARLIER THIS MONTH WHEN  
U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE RICHARD MOOSE MET  
BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN.

MR. MOOSE TOLD AIDES LATER THAT THE BRITISH  
MINISTER APPEARED TO BE ON THE POINT OF ABANDONING  
ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIA AND SUPPORT  
ING THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT, THE SOURCES SAID.

DR. OWEN HAD PUT FORWARD A PLAN FOR MR. NKOMO TO  
RETURN TO RHODESIA AND JOIN THE INTERNAL TALKS AND HAD  
ARGUED THAT ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA WOULD  
SUPPORT THE MOVE, THEY QUOTED MR. MOOSE AS SAYING.

IN THREE SESSIONS OF TALKS, THE U.S. ENVOY, WHO  
HAD PLANNED TO GO ON FROM LONDON TO SOUTHERN AFRICA,  
SOUGHT TO DISSUADE DR. OWEN FROM EMBARKING ON THE PLAN  
BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT WORK, THE SOURCES SAID.

THEY SAID THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL ARGUED THAT MR.  
NKOMO WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE COMPROMISES INVOLVED IN  
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RETURNING AND DR. KAUNDA WOULD NOT ACCEPT BRITISH ARGU-  
MENTS THAT IT WAS IN HIS INTERESTS TO PERSUADE MR.  
NKOMO TO GO BACK AND TO ENDORSE THE INTERNAL PLAN.

MR. MOOSE THEN ABANDONED PLANS TO VISIT SOUTHERN  
AFRICA TO REVIVE WESTERN INVOLVEMENT IN PEACE MOVES

BECAUSE OF THE DISPUTE, THE SOURCES ADDED.

THE U. S. OBJECTIONS WERE APPARENTLY BASED ON THE IMPRACTICABILITY OF DR. OWEN'S PLAN, RATHER THAN ON ANY CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF SPLITTING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THE SOURCES INDICATED.

THEY SAID MR. MOOSE LEFT LONDON FEELING HE HAD PERSUADED DR. OWEN TO THINK AGAIN ABOUT HIS PLAN.

DURING THE LONDON TALKS, DR. OWEN RAISED THE IDEA OF SENDING A SECRET ENVOY TO SOUTHERN AFRICA TO SOUND OUT DR. KAUNDA AND MR. NKOMO ABOUT THE PLAN, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN LUSAKA HAS DENIED THAT AN ENVOY OF THIS KIND WAS EVER SENT.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS DIFFER SHARPLY FROM THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT, THEY GIVE THE 268,000 WHITE MINORITY FAR LESS POLITICAL POWER, ALLOW THE PATRIOTIC FRONT A CENTRAL ROLE AND MAKE PROVISION FOR A BLACK-DOMINATED ARMY. END TEXT

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## Message Attributes

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